



Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services

Iowa EMS Certification Renewal Guidance

Renewal Requirement

An Iowa EMS certification must be renewed prior to the certification's expiration date to maintain an active status. Failure to complete the renewal process prior to the expiration date will result in the Iowa EMS certification's status to change from active to inactive. An Iowa emergency medical care provider may only provide emergency medical care with an active Iowa EMS certification.

Iowa EMS Certification Renewal Options

Renewal of Certification with Continuing Education

To be eligible to renew an Iowa EMS certification with continuing education, a minimum number of core topic continuing education hours (CEHs), based on the level of certification, must be completed prior to the certification's expiration date. The table below identifies the minimum number of CEHs, by core topic, and Iowa EMS certification level, that must be obtained prior to the certification expiration date.

Core Topics	EMR/FR	EMT/EMT-D	AEMT	PM
Airway, Respirations, Ventilations	1	1	2	3
Cardiology	2	6	7	9
Trauma	1	2	3	3
Medical	3	6	8	9
Operations	1	5	5	6
Totals	8	20	25	30

All core continuing education hours used to renew an Iowa EMS certification must have a sponsor number by an authorized Iowa EMS Training Program, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Board of Nursing, the Iowa Board of Medicine, or the Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) before the emergency medical care provider attends the offering.

Along with obtaining the minimum number of core continuing education hours the provider must also complete the online renewal process and pay any applicable renewal fees prior to the certification expiration date.

OR

Renewal of Certification with NREMT Certification

An Iowa emergency medical care provider may renew their Iowa EMS certification with a current and valid NREMT certification that exceeds their Iowa EMS certification expiration date instead of renewing with CEHs. The provider must complete the online renewal process, pay



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any applicable renewal fees, and provide the Bureau with verification of a current, valid NREMT certification prior to their Iowa EMS certification expiration date. The renewed Iowa EMS certification's expiration date will not exceed the expiration date of the NREMT certification utilized for renewal.

Extension of Iowa EMS Certification

An Iowa emergency medical care provider who is unable to attain all continuing education requirements within the certification period may request a one-time 45-day extension to complete the continuing education requirements and renewal process. Iowa emergency medical care providers who wish to apply for an extension must submit a completed application for extension and application fee to the Bureau at least 7-days prior to their certification's expiration date, but no more than 90-days prior to their certification's expiration date. An application for extension and instructions can be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <https://idph.iowa.gov/bets/ems/certification>.

Late Renewal of an Iowa EMS Certification

An Iowa emergency medical care provider who has completed the required continuing education requirements during the certification period but failed to either submit a completed application or pay applicable renewal fee or both is eligible for a late renewal. An application and instructions for late renewal is available for download from the Bureau's website at <https://idph.iowa.gov/bets/ems/certification>. The completed late renewal application and fee must be received by the Bureau by the last day of the month following the Iowa EMS certification expiration date.

Inactive Iowa EMS Certification Status

Iowa emergency medical care providers whose Iowa EMS certification status is inactive may not provide emergency medical care until their certification status is active. Providers with an inactive Iowa EMS certification may be eligible to reactivate their certification based on the amount of time since the certification became inactive. Reactivation of an inactive certification information and application can be downloaded from the Bureau's website at <https://idph.iowa.gov/bets/ems/certification>.

Additional questions can be addressed to:

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